

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07

CEA-01 /093 W

-----110178 282042Z /75

R 271608Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2550

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, JM

SUBJECT: STATE/COMMERCE INVESTMENT MISSION TO JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 5803

1. STATE/COMMERCE TEAM HEADED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ARELLANO COMPLETED FIRST DAY OF ITS VISIT TO
JAMAICA AIMED AT EXAMINING INVESTMENT CLIMATE. TEAM'S
VISIT HAS RECEIVED PROMINENT AND FACTUAL COVERAGE BY LOCAL
MEDIA. BASED ON FIRST DAY'S ACTIVITIES, IT APPEARS THAT
TEAM'S VISIT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANDID AND
CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GOJ AND PRIVATE SECTOR
REPRESENTATIVES ON JAMAICAN INVESTMENT CLIMATE. FOLLOWING
ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST DAY'S ACTIVITIES:

2. TEAM MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND ECDA DIRECTOR LION FOR
BRIEFING ON JAMAICAN POLITICAL SITUATION AND HOW IT RELATES
TO GOJ ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE. TEAM AGREED WITH
EMBASSY THAT BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO LISTEN CAREFULLY
TO WHAT JAMAICANS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT INVESTMENT CLIMATE,
BUT TO POSTPONE WRITING REPORT (WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY BE
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SUBMITTED TO GOJ UNTIL AFTER RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.
THIS WOULD ALLOW SUITABLE COORDINATION WITH EMBASSY AND
OTHER AGENCIES.

2. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MINISTER DANNY WILLIAMS HOSTED
MORNING MEETING THAT INCLUDED WIDE SPECTRUM OF GOJ OFFICIALS
CONCERNED WITH INVESTMENT POLICY. MINISTER WILLIAMS PROVIDED

FRANK AND SURPRISINGLY CANDID SUMMARY OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND OUTLINED AREAS IN WHICH GOJ SAW FOREIGN INVESTMENT PLAYING ROLE IN FURTHERING NATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IN GIVE AND TAKE THAT FOLLOWED, GOJ OFFICIALS WERE STRAIGHT-FORWARD IN EXPLAINING PROBLEMS IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND POINTED TO WAYS IN WHICH USG COULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS AREA. FOR ITS PART, TEAM DESCRIBED LIMITATIONS OPERATING ON US ABILITY TO ASSIST, BUT PROMISED TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY DURING ITS VISIT AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO RAISE PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. TEAM STRESSED THAT INVESTMENT DECISIONS ARE MADE BY US PRIVATE SECTOR AND THAT CONDITIONING ELEMENT WAS PERCEPTION OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE. MEETING ENDED ON FRIENDLY AND OPTIMISTIC NOTE.

4. LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FINANCE MINISTER ERIC BELL INCLUDED BOTH GOJ OFFICIALS AND KEY PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES. AGAIN, CONVERSATION WAS RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND CANDID. MINISTER BELL, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR IRVING AND ARELLANO, SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURES IN AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR AND OTHERS AMONG FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTORS, JAMAICAN PRIVATE SECTOR, AND QUOTE SMALL PART UNQUOTE BY GOJ. THIS WOULD ALLOW GOJ TO PLAY FACILITATIVE ROLE AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THAT OF ARBITRATOR OR PROTECTOR. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE MOVE AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL GOJ INSISTENCE OF 50 PERCENT LOCAL OWNERSHIP.)

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5. AFTERNOON WAS SPENT TOURING KINGSTON PORT FACILITIES, INCLUDING NEW FREE ZONE DESIGNED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN-OWNED MANUFACTURING, WAREHOUSING, AND TRANSSHIPPING OPERATIONS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS GOJ REPORT THAT FIVE SOUTH KOREAN FACTORIES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN FREE ZONE BY END OF 1978. IF PLANTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, UP TO 20 MORE MAY FOLLOW. PRODUCTION IS PLANNED TO BE EXPORTED TO US, LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN MARKETS.

6. SAME EVENING MINISTER WILLIAMS HOSTED INFORMAL RECEPTION IN TEAM'S HONOR.

7. COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO THURSDAY MORNING.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST05920
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0873
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780715/aaaaamgs.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 963cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINGSTON 5803
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1870369
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE/COMMERCE INVESTMENT MISSION TO JAMAICA
TAGS: EINV, JM, STATE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/963cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014